Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083835 ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 COME-00 AGRE-00 ACDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /117 R

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-----141753Z 073693 /46

P 141635Z APR 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EFIS, TW

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION BY ROC ON 1977 SABLEFISH FISHERIES

REF: STATE 062341

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO MEETINGS DESCRIBED REFTEL AMBASSADOR SHEN MET WITH DEP. ASST. SECY. RIDGWAY MARCH 30 TO PRESS CASE FOR ALLOCATION OF SUFFICIENT BLACK COD TO PERMIT 1977 DIRECTED FISHERY FOR ROC LONGLINE VESSEL.

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2. MEETING GENERALLY FOLLOWED LINES OF DISCUSSION DESCRIBED REFTEL. AMBASSADOR SHEN STRESSED FACT THAT ROC BLACK COD CATCHES DURING LATE 1975-LATE 1976 HAD BEEN MUCH MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN LONGER TERM AVERAGE. HE POINTED TO DIFFICULT SITUATION FACING LONGLINE VESSELS WHICH ARE NOW POISED JUST OUTSIDE U.S. 200-MILE LIMIT, AND WILL FACE ECONOMIC RUIN IF FORCED TO RETURN HOME EMPTY. HE NOTED

THAT WHILE ALLOCATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE, HE HOPED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR SOME ADJUSTMENT TO EASE THIS DIFFICULT SITUATION FACING ROC LONGLINE FLEET.

3. DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORTED SUBSTANCE OF RE-SPONSE NOTED REFTEL. EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON FACT THAT CONDITION OF BLACK COD RESOURCE WAS SUFFICIENTLY CRITICAL

THAT THE SURPLUS AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION WAS ONLY A FRACTION OF CURRENT CATCH LEVELS. DEPT. REPRESENTATIVES EMPHASIZED THAT DEPLETED CONDITION OF RESOURCE, AND NEED TO ALLOCATE TO NATIONS WITH A MORE TRADITIONAL CATCH HISTORY IN THIS FISHERY HAD RESULTED IN INABILITY TO ALLOCATE MORE THAN AN INCIDENTAL CATCH ALLOWANCE TO ROC VESSELS. DEPT. REPS. ALSO STRESSED THAT TO ALLOCATE ON BASIS OF VERY RECENT STEEP INCREASES RATHER THAN LONGER TERM TRADITIONAL FISHING LEVELS WOULD NOT BE CONSISTENT WTIH INTENT OF FCMA. WHILE EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT OVER EVIDENT LACK OF FLEXIBILITY, AMBASSADOR SHEN APPEARED TO FULLY UNDERSTAND BASIS OF U.S. ALLOCATION DECISION. DEPT. NOW CONSIDERS MATTER TO BE CLOSED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: FISHERIES, FISHING REGULATIONS, MEETING REPORTS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE083835
Document Source: COPE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: JCPRICE:CMC Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770130-0036

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770456/aaaabwwf.tel

Line Count: 84 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 653123a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: 77 STĂTE 62341

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2804517 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PRESENTATION BY ROC ON 1977 SABLEFISH FISHERIES

TAGS: EFIS, TW, (SHEN), (RIDGWAY)

To: TAIPEI Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/653123a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009